

# We Celebrate Together

## Allelu!

*Growing and Celebrating with Jesus*

### Lesson 13, ages 4-5

#### Lesson 13 Goal

- Your child will discuss various types of celebrations and will learn that the Mass is a holy celebration.

#### Key Points

- Families celebrate special times together.
- The Church is the family of God.
- The Mass is the greatest “family celebration” of the Church.



#### Parent Reflection

Like many families, our spiritual family has family rituals and celebrations. The Mass is our most important celebration, because it is where Jesus makes himself truly present to us. He is present in the Christian community, in the Word, and most fully in the Eucharist.

For the Church, the Eucharist is both a sign and a source of our communal bond with one another. Pope Saint John Paul II said, “Eucharistic communion ... confirms the Church in her unity as the Body of Christ.” He goes on to quote the Apostle Paul, who states, “Because there is one loaf, we who are many are one body, for we all partake of the same loaf” (1 Corinthians 10:17).

#### Reflection Question

How well do I live out my role as a member of the Body of Christ? What more could I do to care, teach, learn, and serve?

## Lesson Preparation

Before inviting your child to sit with you for lesson time, prepare all materials.

### Materials

- ❑ Family Activity Sheet
- ❑ crayons or colored pencils
- ❑ Bible bookmarked at several child-friendly stories
- ❑ secular books about families and celebrations

- ❑ Activity Master #2 – Saint Page (Keep the saint page from each lesson to gather together a Communion of Saints Book created by your child.)

### Preparation Steps

- ❑ Make sure your child has a copy of Activity Master #2 (included with this lesson).

## Gathering

Create a prayerful space. You might place a candle on the table, or set a cross in front of you. Invite your child to join you in quietly preparing for prayer.

Say the following or similar words: *“Now that we are in this prayerful space, let us find the quiet in our hearts so we can talk with God.”*

Sit together for several seconds of shared silence.

Say, *“We are usually happy when we celebrate. Let’s pray to thank God for the celebrating we do with our family.”*

### Begin in prayer:

Pray the Sign of the Cross together or bless your child by tracing a cross on his or her forehead: *“In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.”*

*“Thank you, God, for birthdays, when we celebrate with our family!”* (Child repeats)

*“Thank you God for (Christmas, Easter, etc.), when we celebrate with our family!”* (Child repeats)

Allow your child to name other special celebrations.

*“Thank you God for \_\_\_\_\_, when we celebrate with our family!”* (Child repeats)

*“Thank you, God, for the Mass, when we*

*gather to celebrate your love with our Church family.”* (Child repeats *“Thank you God for the Mass.”*)

*“Thank you, God our Father, for loving us so much that you gave us our family. Please be with us today. Amen.”*

## Discovering

**Happy Families.** Turn to the first page of the Activity Sheet and read about families.

Invite your child to name some ways your family has been blessed.

Turn to the second page of the Activity Sheet. Ask your child the “Ask Me!” questions and review the answers.

## Exploring

Use the following activities to enrich your child’s understanding of the lesson and of our Catholic faith.

**1. Where Are They Going?** Turn to the main activity of the Activity Sheet (center pages) and invite your child to describe what he or she sees. Give your child crayons or colored pencils. Explain the activity to your child and have him or her complete it. Talk with your child about the family going to Mass, and that the Mass is the Church’s greatest celebration.

**2. Family Story Time.** Set up a cozy space on the floor with picture books and Bible. Read stories together and talk about ways they related to your family.

**3. The Communion of Saints: Saint Sergius of Radonezh.** Show your child the picture of Saint Sergius on the Family Activity page and read about him. Then read more about Saint Sergius to your child (see below).

Ask your child:

► “When Sergius grew up, he taught many people about Jesus. What are some things you would

tell other people about Jesus?” (*Being kind and fair with others, told stories, prayed for people.*)

- What did you like best about the story of Saint Sergius?

Have your child write and draw about Saint Sergius of Radonezh using Activity Master #2.

## Sending

**Pray with your child.** Begin by making the Sign of the Cross together, or bless your child by tracing a cross on his or her forehead. Pray aloud with your child.

### Saint Sergius of Radonezh

#### Sergius and the Psalms

Long ago in Russia, there lived a holy man named Sergius. He taught many people to love God. Here is a story about Sergius as a child, which shows God’s love for him.

Little Sergius had a big problem: He could not learn to read. He tried. Teachers tried, but Sergius did not learn. So, he prayed.

One day, he met a very old man who asked him, “Child, what do you want?” Sergius said quickly, “More than anything, sir, I want to read!”

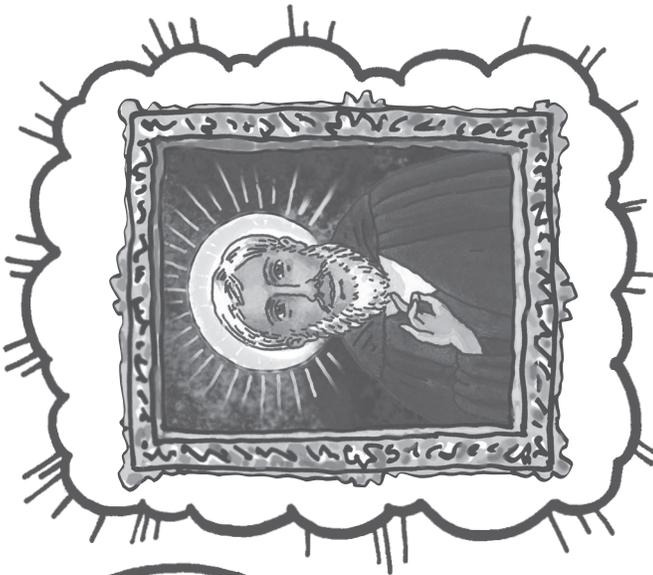
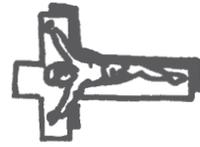
Together, they walked to Sergius’ house. “I will pray with your family,” the man said to Sergius. “And you will read the Psalms.”

“Me?” Sergius squeaked. “Yes, you,” he answered.

The family prayed with their guest. And, like at Mass, they listened to a reading from the Bible. The guest handed the Bible to Sergius. It was open to the Psalms, beautiful prayer-poems that talk to God.

Sergius began to read! He read wonderfully! As the family walked to the door with the old man, he disappeared! Was he an angel? Had an angel helped Sergius to read? Certainly, God’s love was with Sergius that day and for the rest of his long life.

**DRAW**



**Saint  
Sergius,  
pray for us!**